

REMARKS

Claims 5, 6, 9 and 12 remain herein. Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 also remain herein, but are currently withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants believe that this Amendment places this application fully in condition for allowance, and surely in better condition for any appeal. Thus, entry of this Amendment and allowance of all claims 5, 6, 9 and 12 are respectfully requested.

1. Claims 5, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) over Honma '848. Honma '848 fails to disclose or suggest "said EOB detector for outputting the position of the non-zero quantized frequency component in the predetermined scanning order as a control signal to the quantizer and the encoder," as recited in claim 5. Fig. 17A of Honma '848 describes that the EOB detecting circuit 804a outputs EOB signals to the coding selecting circuit 806. See Honma '848, col. 21, lines 20-36. Coding selection circuit 806 is different from applicants' claimed "quantizer" and "encoder." See Honma '848, col. 21, line 63 – col. 22, line 8.

Claim 6 is patentable over Honma '848 by virtue of its dependency from claim 5.

Claim 9 similarly recites, "quantizing the frequency components up to said position in the predetermined scanning order" and "variable length coding the quantized frequency components up to said position in the predetermined scanning order." As discussed above with respect to claim 5, Honma '848 fails to disclose or suggest outputting the EOB detection result for quantization and variable length coding. Thus, claim 9 is patentable over Honma '848.

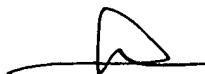
Thus, there is no disclosure or teaching in Honma '848 of all elements of applicants' presently claimed invention. Accordingly, Honma '848 is not an adequate basis for rejection of applicants' claims under § 102. Nor is there any disclosure in Honma '848 that would have suggested applicants' claimed invention to one of ordinary skill in this art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 6 and 9 is respectfully requested.

2. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Honma '848 and Kobayashi '408. Kobayahsi '408 is cited only as allegedly describing an image encoding method on a computer readable medium. Kobayahsi '408 fails to disclose what is missing in Honma '848, as noted above with respect to claim 5. Thus, claim 12 is patentable over Honma '848 and Kobayashi '408.

Accordingly, the application is now fully in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The PTO is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293. If further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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